Latina/o Studies

The minor in Latina/o studies is administered by the Department of Spanish, Latina/o, and Latin American Studies: Professors Gudmundson (on leave Spring 2016), Mosby (on leave Spring 2016), Romero-Díaz; Associate Professors Crumbaugh (chair) Assistant Professor D. Hernandez (on leave 2015-16); Visiting Lecturers J. Hernandez, Rosa, Soltero Lopez; Senior Lecturer Castro.

Overview

The Latina/o Studies minor provides an interdisciplinary exploration of the history, culture, and experiences of Latinas/os in the United States. With a presence in the Americas spanning seven centuries, Latinas/os are the largest “minority” in the U.S. and reflect a cultural complexity that includes mode of incorporation to the U.S., cultural productions, political agency, and heterogeneous racial, gender, sexual, class backgrounds and citizenship statuses. Courses in Latina/o Studies place a premium on critical thinking, comparative analyses, and historical and contemporary engagement with society.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 20 credits

Courses

- Latina/o Studies 200 or 201, Introductions to Latina/o Studies
- At least one Latina/o Studies course at the 300 level
- Three other Latina/o Studies courses at the 200 or 300 level. A first-year seminar offered by Latina/o Studies faculty may be substituted for one of these courses.

Other

- At least one course must include a Community-Based Learning component.
- Students are encouraged to take Latina/o Studies courses offered across the Five Colleges, per department faculty approval.
- Four Independent Study credits may be included in the minor (295, 395).
- Courses in a student’s major field may not be used to fulfill the minimum requirements of the minor. (For example, a Latin American Studies major may not count a Latina/o Studies course towards both her major and the Latina/o Studies minor.)

Course Offerings

LATST-200 Introduction to Latina/o Studies: Social and Cultural Articulations

Fall

This course offers an introduction to the study of Latina/o communities in the United States. We will explore major concepts and debates in the growing field of Latina/o Studies, through the study of texts across disciplines including history, sociology, performance theory, personal narrative and ethnography. This interdisciplinary approach will provide us with rich frameworks to interrogate how Latinas/os negotiate complex identities across communities and specific geographic and political contexts.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

LATST-201 Introduction to Latina/o Studies: Structural Inequalities

Not Scheduled for This Year

The course provides an overview of current and past social conditions of Latinas and Latinos within the U.S. We will address laws, policies and institutions that shape the complexity of Latinas/os’ social location and serve as critical sites of resistance. The course addresses legal constructions of race and citizenship, nomenclature, border politics, public health, education, and labor. We will consider the critical intersections of class, gender and sexuality as well as inequality in relation to other persons of color. Students will develop a firm sense of the importance and breadth of the Latina/o political agenda and acquire skills to think across social issues.

Crosslisted as: Latin American Studies 287SI

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

D. Hernández

Credits: 4

LATST-230 Afro-Latina/o Diasporic Performance

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course focuses on performance practices rooted in the African diaspora of the Americas, with particular attention to how race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, and gender are articulated in multiple aesthetic approaches. We will interrogate how these performances have functioned and continue to inspire political transformation as well as the recovery of shared histories of the Afro-Latina/o diaspora.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

M. Díaz-Sánchez

Credits: 4

LATST-235 Performance in the Americas

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course focuses on performance practices rooted in the African diaspora of the Americas, with particular attention to how race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, and gender are articulated in multiple aesthetic approaches. We will interrogate how these performances have functioned and continue to inspire political transformation as well as the recovery of shared histories of the Afro-Latina/o diaspora.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

M. Díaz-Sánchez

Credits: 4

LATST-240 Latina Theatre and Performance

Not Scheduled for This Year

This course offers transnational approaches to the theory and political practice of performance in the Americas with a focus on work by Latinas in the United States and women in Latin America. We will interrogate the ways in which race, sexuality, class, gender, indigenous and diasporic identities inform the methodological and aesthetic mandates of an array of artists from across disciplines. Employing multiple modes of performance from theater, dance, art, performance art, dance...) have functioned and continue to allow for politically subversive or resistant transformation.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives

M. Díaz-Sánchez

Credits: 4
LATST-250 Special Topics in Latina/o Studies

LATST-250CU Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Imagining Cuba: Between History and Memory'
Spring
This course introduces students to critical and creative works that center Cuba and its diasporas. The primary questions of the course are: How have authors varyingly imagined Cuba over time and across space? How are these imaginings of Cuba politically, economically, and culturally situated? Students will question the personal/national and the public/private across a range of texts that explore issues of exile, nostalgia, memory, and nationalism. Readings include works by Cristina García, Ana Menéndez, Pablo Medina, Achy Obejas, Roberto G. Fernández, Carmelita Tropicana, Richard Blanco, and Rachel Kushner and readings by Gustavo Perez Firmat, Sheila Croucher, and Louis A. Perez, Jr. Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 204CU, Latin American Studies 287CU
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
J. Hernandez
Credits: 4

LATST-250LR Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Latina/o Urbanism(s)'
Fall
This course will examine the urban as a social, political, cultural, and economic formation, and set of social relations, with focus on Latina/o identities and culture(s). Urban scholars have long studied the changing and evolving city -- this course explores this notion in relation to Latina/o research, populations, and urban social change movements. We will examine historical and contemporary conditions and cover a broad range of topics including: urbanization, urban planning, place-making, social policy, migration/immigration, segregation, urban education, language, and more. Crosslisted as: Sociology 216LR
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
V. Rosa
Credits: 4

LATST-250RP Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'Race, Racism, and Power'
Fall
This course analyzes the concepts of race and racism from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students will be asked to bring a critical lens to the ubiquitous, yet frequently misunderstood concepts of race and racism. We will study the sociocultural, political, economic, and historical forces that collaborate and compete with one another in the production of racial categories. This approach will require us to draw connections between wide-scale processes and everyday interactions. This will involve a consideration of a range of issues and concepts, including colonialism, nation, multiculturalism, representation, and violence. The analysis that we develop will ultimately allow us to think rigorously about social inequality, difference, resistance, and liberation. Crosslisted as: Film Studies 370RR
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
V. Rosa
Credits: 4

LATST-250YE Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: 'The Undocumented Latina/o Youth Experience'
Fall
This course provides an overview of the immigrant rights movement, emphasizing diverse undocumented Latina/o students throughout the K-20 pipeline. Readings and discussions will: address the socio-political construction of 'illegality'; critically examine the creation and implementation of pro- and anti-immigrant legislation, particularly policies that impact undocumented students; survey the challenges and resiliency of the undocumented youth movement as it pertains to education, social mobility, and health; and deconstruct the legislative, political, economic, and cultural factors that impact the undocumented community in the U.S. Crosslisted as: Women's Studies 204YE
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
A. Soltero Lopez
Credits: 4

LATST-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.

LATST-330 Latina Feminisms
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of feminist ideologies among Latinas throughout the United States. Employing a range of sources from archival texts to artistic images and ethnographies, we will study the histories and representations of Latina feminist theories across academic and aesthetic approaches. Focusing on the multiplicity of lived experiences among Puertorriqueñas, Chicanas, Mexicanas, Centroamericanas, Dominicanas, Suramericanas, and many other communities in the United States, we will interrogate how gender and sexuality have informed the development of Latina feminist movements and political histories. Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 333EE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Diaz-Sánchez
Credits: 4

LATST-335 Race and Representation in Latina/o Film
Not Scheduled for This Year
This seminar offers an interrogation of the ways in which Latinas and Latinos are represented in the cinema. We will explore early portrayals of Latinas and Latinos in film history and then explore contemporary cinema with a focus on race, class, gender and sexuality in these representations. Employing multiple aesthetic and disciplinary approaches, we will analyze commercial films alongside independent films with particular attention to the market-driven and political mandates of these projects. We will focus on films by both Latina/o filmmakers and non-Latina/o filmmakers, interrogating the multifarious points of entry of these artists. Crosslisted as: Film Studies 370RR
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
M. Diaz-Sánchez
Credits: 4

LATST-340 Trans-Latina/o Cultural Studies
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course begins by discussing the conceptual framework of cultural studies and analyzing the intellectual interceptions made by transnational Latin@ formations, followed by a discussion of transnational Latinidades and what Juan Flores and George Yudice describe as 'transcreative' formations. Using these frameworks as a point of departure, we examine a range of particular issues that connect both Latin@ and Latin American communities around specific cultural practices, including the politics and claiming of space, the making of a Latin@ public sphere, transnational and subaltern imaginations, cultural production and consumption, and alternative/subversive performance practices. Crosslisted as: Women's Studies 340SE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive
M. Diaz-Sánchez, W. Valentin-Escobar
Credits: 4
LATST-345 Visualizing Immigrant Narratives: Migration in Film
Not Scheduled for This Year
This course offers an interrogation of overt and embedded narratives of migrants and the migration process in popular and documentary film, paying specific attention to cinematic representations of non-citizen bodies confronting migration, deportation, labor, acculturation, and anti-immigrant hysteria. Film screenings and class discussions comprise the interpretative lens through which students will examine the aesthetic, cultural, economic, gendered, historical, political, racial and sexual dimensions of cultural texts. The course is supplemented with readings about immigration policies and histories.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
D. Hernández
Restrictions: This course is open to Juniors and Seniors.
Notes: Plus 2-3 special screenings
Credits: 4

LATST-350 Special Topics in Latina/o Studies
LATST-350CL Special Topics in Latina/o Studies: ‘Chicana/Latina Feminist Literature and Thought’
Fall
This seminar surveys works by Chicana and Latina authors. Selections from critical/theoretical works will situate our reading of literature produced by Chicana/Latina authors in the United States. Readings of novels, short stories, poems, essays, and plays by Chicana, Cuban American, Puerto Rican, and Dominican American authors provide students with a range of experiences and literary styles. Students will ask how the diversity of these texts bespeaks a shared or distinct experience across differences. Particular attention will be given to the challenges that Chicana/Latina writers pose towards nationalist movements, literary genres, cultural production, and feminisms.
Crosslisted as: English 392CL, Gender Studies 333CL, Latin American Studies 387CL
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive; Writing-Intensive; Topics Course
J. Hernandez
Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Credits: 4

LATST-360 Special Topics in Latin American Studies: 'Latina/o Immigration'
Not Scheduled for This Year
The course provides an historical and topical overview of Latina/o migration to the United States. We will examine the economic, political, and social antecedents to Latin American migration, and the historical impact of the migration process in the U.S. Considering migration from Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, we will discuss the social construction of race, the gendered nature of migration, migrant labor struggles, Latin American-U.S. Latino relations, immigration policy, and border life and enforcement. Notions of citizenship, race, class, gender, and sexuality will be central to our understanding of the complexity at work in the migration process.
Crosslisted as: Gender Studies 333UU, Sociology 316MM
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
D. Hernandez
Credits: 4

LATST-365 Disposable People: A History of Deportation
Not Scheduled for This Year
Taught in English, the course explores comparative racial and ethnic politics in the U.S. during the 20th century. We will analyze the creation and maintenance of structural inequalities through laws and policies targeted at persons of color in the areas of healthcare, transportation, immigration, labor, racial segregation, and education. Through readings, lectures and films, we will discuss critical histories of community struggle against social inequality, registering the central impact that race, class, gender, sexuality, and citizenship have had on efforts toward social justice. The course also offers an optional Community-Based Learning (CRL) component.
Crosslisted as: Critical Social Thought 365, Latin American Studies 387DP
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives
Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning
D. Hernandez
Credits: 4

LATST-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring
The department
Instructor permission required.
Credits: 1-4
Course can be repeated for credit.